

Please amend the application as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Cancel claims 1-3.

Add new claims 4-20 as follows.

4. A portable storage container sized and configured for receiving and dispensing sanitary napkins, comprising:

a main housing for storage of a plurality of sanitary napkins, wherein the main housing comprises a front panel, a back panel, a left side panel, a right side panel and a bottom panel which together form an internal compartment and a top access opening to the compartment;

a side access opening being defined by one of the side panels, wherein the side access opening is sized and configured to allow passage of at least one sanitary napkin at a time;

a flap having a first end secured to the main housing and a second end releasably securable to the main housing, wherein the flap is positioned to cover the side access opening when the second end of the flap is secured to the main housing; and

a lid sized and configured to cover the top access opening.

4.2 The portable storage container according to claim 4, wherein the panels are joined at their edges to form the internal compartment.

4.3 The portable storage container according to claim 4, wherein the side access opening is completely defined by the side access panel.

7. 4 The portable storage container according to claim 4, wherein the side access opening is adjacent to the bottom panel.

8. 5 The portable storage container according to claim 4, wherein the side access opening is sized and configured to allow passage of only one sanitary napkin at a time through the opening.

9. 6 The portable storage container according to claim 4, wherein the lid is pivotally attached to the top portion of at least one of the front, back or side panels so that the lid may be opened and closed while remaining attached to the main housing.

10. 7 The portable storage container according to claim 4, further comprising one or more elastic bands secured to the inner side of the lid.

11. 8 The portable storage container according to claim 4, further comprising a storage pocket attached to and disposed on the outer surface of the side panel opposite the side panel which defines the side access opening.

12. 9 The portable storage container according to claim 4, further comprising a strap for carrying the container, wherein the strap has a first end and a second end, each of the ends being attached to the container.

13. 10 The portable storage container according to claim 12, wherein the first end of the strap is attached to a side panel of the main housing and the second strap is attached to the opposing side panel of the main housing, and wherein the level of attachment of the first and second ends is above the level of the side access opening.

14. 11 The portable storage container according to claim 4, further comprising a handle.

16.12 The portable storage container according to claim 1, wherein the container is composed of a material selected from the group consisting of fabric, textile or animal skin.

16.13 A portable storage container sized and configured for receiving and dispensing sanitary napkins having a short axis and two longer axes, comprising;

a main housing for storage of a plurality of sanitary napkins, wherein the main housing comprises a front panel, a back panel, a left side panel, a right side panel and a bottom panel which together form an internal compartment and a top access opening to the compartment;

a side access opening being defined by one of the side panels, wherein the side access opening is sized and configured to allow passage of only one sanitary napkin at a time when the short axis of the sanitary napkin is oriented substantially perpendicular to the plane defined by the bottom panel;

a flap having a first end secured to the main housing and a second end releasably securable to the main housing, wherein the flap is positioned to cover the side access opening when the second end of the flap is secured to the main housing; and

a lid sized and configured to cover the top access opening.

16.14 The portable storage container according to claim 16, wherein the main housing is sized and configured to hold and substantially conform to one full consumer-sized package of sanitary napkins.

16.15 The portable storage container according to claim 16, further comprising a carrying means for carrying the container.

*13 15*  
14. The portable storage container according to claim 1 or 17, further comprising a hanging means for hanging the container in an upright orientation.

*17*  
20. A portable storage container, comprising;

a rectangular main housing for storage of a plurality of items,

the rectangular main housing comprising a front panel, a back panel, a left side panel, a right side panel and a bottom panel, wherein the panels are joined at their edges to form an internal compartment and a top access opening to the compartment;

a side access opening being defined by one of the side panels, wherein the side access opening is sized and configured to allow passage of at least one of the items at a time;

a flap having a first end secured to the main housing and a second end releasably securable to the main housing, wherein the flap is positioned to cover the side access opening when the second end of the flap is secured to the main housing; and

a lid sized and configured to cover the top access opening.